

D3 8. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the target molecule is an organic compound having a molecular weight of about 100 to about 1000 grams/mole.

9. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the target molecule is a protein or fragment thereof.

D4 11. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, sputum, urine, semen, cerebrospinal fluid, bronchial aspirate and organ tissue.

D5 13. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the detectable non-primer probe comprises a nucleic acid having a fluorescent dye label.

D4 17. (Thrice Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the nucleic acid detector molecule is RNA and the RNA detector molecule is reverse transcribed to form DNA before or during amplifying step d.

18. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein the RNA detector molecule is reversed transcribed at a temperature sufficient to dissociate the detector molecule from the capture antibody:target molecule:aptamer ternary complex and reverse transcribe the RNA.

D7 24. (Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein said quantitating or detecting the PCR amplified DNA quantitates or detects the target molecule when present at a concentration equal to or less than about 1000 pg/mL.

D8 27. (Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein said quantitating or detecting the PCR amplified DNA quantitates or detects the target molecule when present at a concentration of about 100 to about 5000 pg/mL.

D9 30. (Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein said quantitating or detecting the PCR amplified DNA quantitates or detects the target molecule when present at a concentration of about 3 to about 5000 pg/mL.

D10
33. (Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein said quantitating or detecting the PCR amplified DNA quantitates or detects the target molecule when present at a concentration of about 0.4 to about 5000 pg/mL.

D11
36. (Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein said quantitating or detecting the PCR amplified DNA quantitates or detects the target molecule when present at a concentration of about 1 to about 5000 pg/mL.

D12
39. (Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein said quantitating or detecting the PCR amplified DNA quantitates or detects the target molecule when present at a concentration of about 0.03 to about 5000 pg/mL.

D13
42. (Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein said quantitating or detecting the PCR amplified DNA quantitates or detects the target molecule when present at a concentration of about 0.005 to about 5000 pg/mL.

REMARKS

Preliminarily, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of granting an interview with the Applicants' representative on November 7, 2002.

Reconsideration and allowance of the above referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8-14, 17-20 and 24-46 are currently pending in the present application. In accordance with the discussion of the remaining claims during the Examiner's Interview, Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 17, 18, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36, 39 and 42 have been amended to depend from Claim 46. Claim 23 has been canceled.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8-14, 17-20 and 23-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being